

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Figure 9. This sheet, which includes Figure 9, replaces the original sheet including Figure 9. In Figure 9, reference character 30 has been added to correspond with reference character 30 enumerated in the Specification.

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the non-final Office Action dated October 5, 2007, is believed to be fully responsive to the points of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, the specification was editorially revised to correct informalities without adding new subject matter. Figure 9 was amended to include inadvertently omitted reference character --30--.

Claims 15-22, 28 and 30 are pending. Claims 15, 16, 18 and 30 are amended above. No new matter has been added and support for the amendments can be found, for example, in previously presented Claim 18. Claims 15-20 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over "Front Flash Thermal Imaging Characterization of Continuous Fiber Ceramic Composites" by C. Deemer, J.G.Sun, W.A.Ellingson, and S. Short, 23rd Annual Cocoa Beach Int. Conf. On Engineering Ceramics and Structures, Jan. 25-29, 1999 (Deemer), in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,675,074 (Dennewitz). Claims 21, 22 and 28 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Deemer, in view of Dennewitz, in further view of "Integrated Gate-Commutated Thyristors: A New Approach to High Power Electronics," Eric Carroll et al., IGCT Press Conference, May 20, 1997 (Carroll). Applicants respectfully submit the following remarks in support of the patentability of the claims.

1. Claims 15-20 and 30:

Claims 15-20 and 30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Deemer, in view of Dennewitz. Claim 15 is amended above to include recitations from previously presented Claim 18. Claim 15 is directed to an infrared thermography imaging system that includes at least one active quenching means configured to quench at least one flash lamp to control the duration of a flash. The active quenching means is configured to receive a control signal T2 and to quench the flash lamp in response to the control signal T2. The infrared thermography imaging system further includes a timing generator configured to supply the control signal T2, and an IR camera configured to capture IR image frames of the object.

In support of the rejection of Claim 15, the Examiner cites Deemer as disclosing an infrared thermography imaging system. As noted by the Examiner, Deemer does not teach or suggest an active quenching means configured to quench at least one flash lamp to control the duration of a flash, as recited by Claim 15. In addition, the Examiner has not pointed to any recognition in Deemer of the need for an active quenching means.

To supply these deficiencies of Deemer, the Examiner cites Dennewitz. However, Dennewitz does not teach or suggest a timing generator configured to supply the control signal T2. On the contrary, Dennewitz uses a photosensitive element to detect a portion of the light reflected from an object illuminated by the flash tube. This detected light portion is integrated to form a control signal, which is coupled to a second input of the comparator circuit. The gate is disabled and the flash terminated after a lapse of time sufficient to permit the control voltage to exceed the reference voltage. (Abstract)

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is patentably distinguishable over Deemer and Dennewitz, either alone or in combination. Further, as claims 16-20 depend from Claim 15, these claims are also patentably distinguishable over the cited art, for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to Claim 15.

Similarly, Claim 30 has been amended to recite a timing generator configured to supply the control signal T2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 30 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for reasons analogous to those discussed above with reference to Claim 15. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 15-20 and 30 under 35 USC 103(a) over Deemer, in view of Dennewitz, be withdrawn.

2. Claims 21, 22 and 28:

Claims 21, 22 and 28 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) over Deemer, in view of Dennewitz, in further view of Carroll.

Claims 21, 22 and 28 depend from Claim 15. As discussed above in Section 1, Claim 15 is patentably distinguishable over Deemer and Dennewitz. The Examiner has cited Caroll for teachings regarding power semiconductor switches. However, Caroll does not supply the above-discussed deficiencies of Deemer and Dennewitz.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 21, 22 and 28 are patentably distinguishable over the Deemer, Dennewitz and Caroll, either alone or in

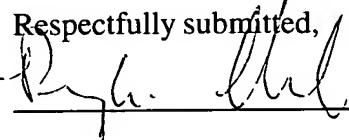
combination, and respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 21, 22 and 28 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 15-22, 28 and 30 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Please charge all applicable fees associated with the submittal of this Amendment and any other fees applicable to this application to the Assignee's Deposit Account No. 07-0868.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,


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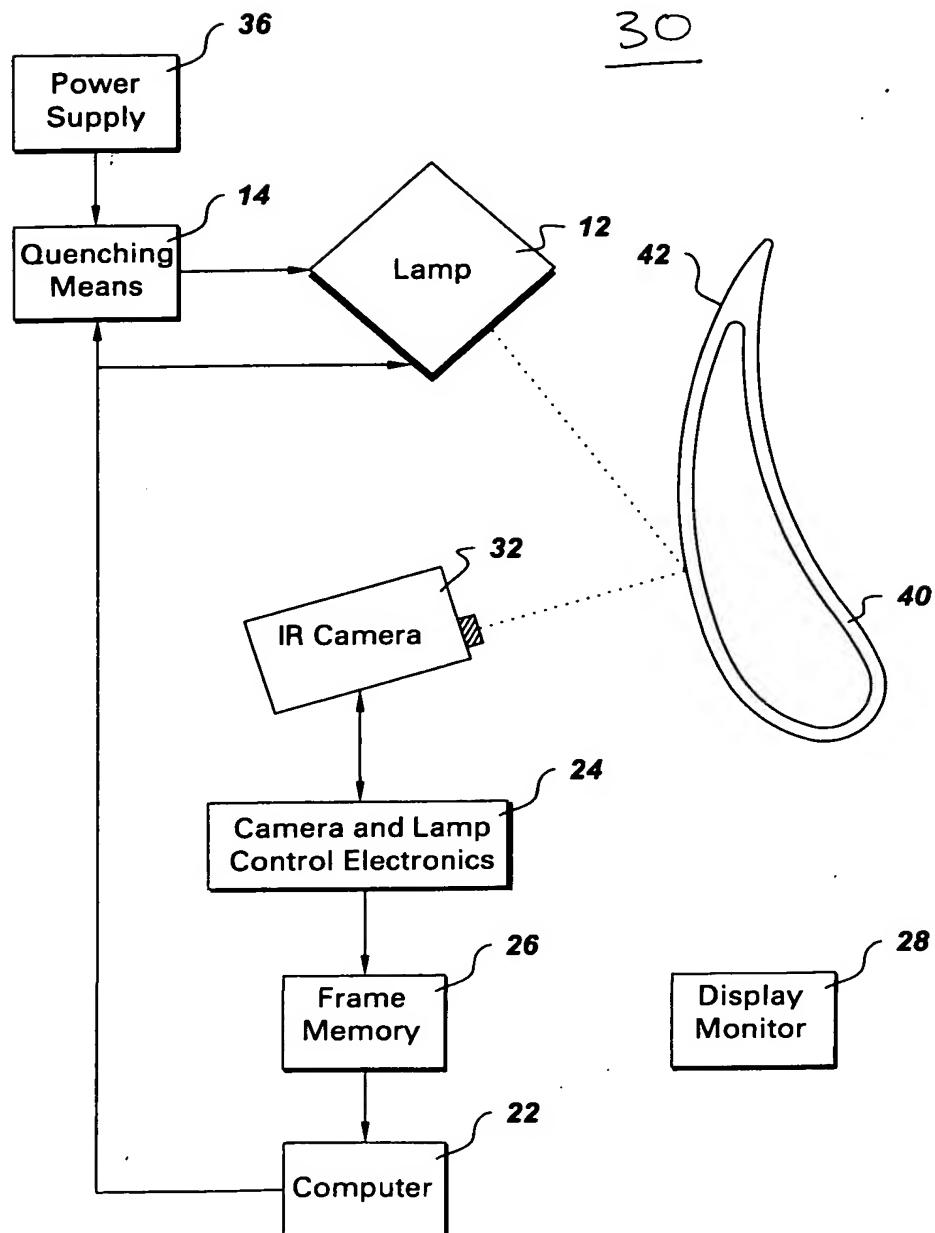


Fig. 9

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes